

### AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS

March 21, 1952 marks the close of one year of our writing articles concerning the activities of the Pioneers of Wasatch County. The items have been searched out of public and private records. We now have reached a place where our source of information is almost exhausted. This is an appeal to you our readers. It pleases us to publish the biographies but we are going to need your help. Please send us the incidents relative to your personal history. It is very necessary if we are to continue these articles as we have no other way to get the facts.

We are grateful for the histories we have received and published. There are still unlimited biographies of some of our most important pioneers, of whom we have no information.

Many of you have asked to have these articles made available in pamphlet or book form. At present we are investigating this additional service. If it can be done so they can be sold at a price you would be willing to pay, Turner's will be happy to supply them.

If this space is ever left blank you will know we have run out of material to fill it. The next week it will be discontinued unless your interest in the Pioneers of Wasatch prompts you to send us the history of your own special pioneer.

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We hope to continue to serve this area in such a manner that we can count on your patronage in the future and make new friends. Jack Willmore, Turner's Manager, of this Heber store. He is married and a veteran of World War II.

### TURNER BUILDING SUPPLY

That Good Place To Buy

Jack Willmore, Turner's Manager

55 South Main

Heber 8-1

Webster defined a pioneer as "one who goes before to prepare the way for those who follow." It is our intention to inscribe for your information some facts concerning some Wasatch County pioneers.

According to records accepted by leading authorities it is fairly certain that as early as 1776, portions of what is now Wasatch County were visited by white men. While George Washington was busy directing revolutionary operations on America's eastern coast, a Spanish expedition actually visited parts of our county. These eight men were Franciscan Friars led by Father Escalante and Father Dominguez.

It was the purpose of the Spaniards to find and mark a safer and easier route from Santa Fe, Mexico, (now New Mexico) to Monterey, California. They followed the Colorado River until they reached Green River. On Sept. 13, 1776, a crossing was made at what is now Jensen, Utah. Here members of the party carved their names on a tree together with the date. This writing is plainly readable today. On Sept. 16, 1776, the party traveled toward Utah Lake. They entered Wasatch County at its boundary following the Strawberry River to the fertile Strawberry Valley. Here they camped and when travel was resumed they crossed over the divide to the south and proceeded down Diamond Fork into Utah Valley.

These Catholic Friars had thus criss-crossed Wasatch County from east to west but had failed to enter or even go by lovely Heber Valley.

How Often Do You Fail To Enter

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That good place to buy

Heber — Roosevelt — Vernal

Between the years 1776 and 1825 it is doubtful if any but red-men and wild animals roamed the Provo River Valley. Grass grew tall, birds nestled and beasts grew fat, all in the boundaries of our fair county, waiting to submit to white man's ministrations.

From the journal of Wm. H. Ashley we learn that he and his company of men traveled from a fort on the Uinta River (now in Duchesne Co.) to Fort Hall. They traveled up the Duchesne River to the "West Fork of said river," up the West Fork to Wolf Creek, on up Wolf Creek to the very head of same. They then proceeded down the South Fork of the Provo River.

As they entered the place now known as Kamas Bench or Francis Town, in the distance they saw men. They knew not if they were white or red, friendly or savage. Certainly they were not just common people.

They proved to be the Utah trappers, Jim Bridger, Jedidiah Smith, Provot (for whom the river is named), Jackson, Sublet and others. They had been trapping in the valleys since early spring. This group also by-passed lovely Heber Valley.



Several expeditions of settlers crossed and recrossed Utah, but it was not until 1856 or 1857 that two men who had climbed the ridge of what is now called Bonanza Flats, discovered Heber Valley.

In 1858 it was considered wise by those in authority to appoint scouts to explore this valley for possibilities of settlement. The scouts must be capable and courageous. William Wall and William Meeks, both of Provo, were appointed.

The plan was for them to bring their cattle into Heber Valley in the summer of 1858. With sickle and scythe they were to harvest sufficient wild hay to feed the cattle through the winter of 1858-1859. And they did.

Their plows were among the first to break the soil in Wasatch County.

William Wall later moved to the South-East into another place he called Round Valley. They place has now come to bear his name, Wallsburg. William Wall was the husband of five wives and the father of thirty children. The fine progressive town of Wallsburg is home to many of his descendants among whom is his daughter, Susan Davis.

The name, Meeks, is often seen and heard in Wasatch County. The families of William Meeks can be justly proud of the foundation he laid for them.

#### THOMAS RASBAND

In the latter part of April 1859, a man named Thomas Rasband, of Provo, was preparing his wagon and oxen for a hard trip over almost impossible trails. In the company were ten other men. They had three wagons. The trip from Provo to Heber Valley required three full days. Snow had slid from the mountains to the low places erasing all signs of a trail. In some places the wagons had to be taken apart and carried over the slides.

At night, May 1, 1859 this company arrived at the camp of Wm. Wall on Daniel Creek. As they traveled northward they came to a spring of clear, cold water. Being mainly Englishmen they named the spring and surrounding land "London."

Thomas Rasband took up land and built his cabin to which he brought his family and proceeded to be an influence in the community. His family was one of nineteen to remain in the valley that hard winter of 1859-60. On Dec. 25, 1859, he performed the first marriage in Wasatch County, when Charles C. Thomas and Emmeline Sessions (parents of Melissa T. Pearson) became man and wife.

In 1861 a ward was established and Thos. Rasband was chosen counselor to Jos. S. Murdock. After a stake was made Mr. Rasband served as bishop of the Heber East Ward. Later his son, Joseph Rasband acted as bishop of the Heber Second Ward. Heber First Ward is now presided over by Heber M. Rasband, a grandson.

The fine Rasband homes testify to the building tendency of their grandsire. The posterity of Thos. Rasband is numerous and well respected. Their gratitude and ours extends to this man who helped build a community for all to enjoy.

One of the major problems confronting the Wasatch County pioneers concerned their government. The Territorial Legislature had appointed John W. Witt "Probate Judge." Judge Witt set up a County Court to care for the civil needs of the people. He appointed Thomas Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner as Selectmen.

Early in the settlement of the valley trouble, in the form of Indian raids began to worry settlers. By the Spring of 1866 nearly every able bodied man in the county was engaged in active military service.

The pioneer families considered it wise to locate in a central place. A fort was built in Heber township. A large corral was made in Cluff's Hollow where most of the cattle were guarded at night. During the day they were herded on the surrounding hills.

One of the first men to be appointed to active military duty was John Witt. His ability to direct men and operations was such that he was commissioned a Major in the Wasatch County Militia. Under his command were cavalymen who scouted the mountains for signs of hostile Indians.

At first the valley was all one ward presided over by Joseph S. Murdock. John Witt was chosen as counselor to Mr. Murdock.

Evidences of the life and works of John Witt are all about us. The Witt name is known for good, for achievement and for strength throughout Wasatch County. To John Witt goes our thanks for his efforts to help build Wasatch County.

#### JOHN CROOK

In July of 1858 a plot of land  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles square was surveyed in Provo Valley by J. C. Snow. This plot was called City Plot. Before September 1858 additional acreage in the North Field had been surveyed and allotted. Most families received 25 acres of land, five of which was meadow land for pasturage. In October 1859 yet another survey was conducted South and West of City Plot by Mr. Snow and John Crook. For his work Mr. Crook received 25 acres of land and \$10.00 cash.

Mr. Crook tells us that during the July 1858 survey the men were camped near a stream in City Plot. A pint cup was left overnight nearly full of water. When morning came the water was frozen solid. The first pioneers felt sure this confirmed their belief that agriculture could never be successful in Heber.

To Mr. Crook we are indebted for the information concerning the intentions of the leaders regarding the use they meant to make of Wasatch County. All through the winter of 1858-59 meetings were held to determine the advisability of settling this valley the following summer. It was generally considered too cold for anything but cattle ranches. Some wanted to convert the entire valley into a huge cattle kingdom. Mr. Crook stoutly maintained that if they planted their seed and exercised their faith, God would grant an increase.

Perhaps one of the greatest services to the community performed by Mr. Crook was the keeping of a daily diary that can be relied upon to be honest and straightforward.



## FIRST SETTLERS OF HEBER VALLEY

On May 1, 1859, snow lay deep on parts of Heber Valley, ice covered the streams—not an encouraging prospect for pioneers who were planning a permanent settlement. However, the eleven men who made up, what they thought, was the first company to enter Heber Valley were not the kind to easily accept defeat.

After an overnight rest in the southern end of the valley, morning saw them proceeding northward on foot toward the proposed townsite.

In the not to far distance something in the sagebrush seemed to be moving back and forth, back and forth. Of a certainty it must be animals. Approaching cautiously they were most happy to find friends—white men and teams of oxen. The men had their oxen yoked to plows and were breaking ground. It must have been a bit of a let-down to find that others had beat them to a goal they had tried so desperately to achieve.

Robert Broadhead with two ox teams and James Davis also with two yokes had each plowed about one acre of land. Mr. Davis had sowed wheat in his section and a boy was harrowing. These men had come in from Nephi, a town farther south. By three days they had preceded the company of eleven men.

From Robert Broadhead and James Davis it was learned that other valley ground had been broken prior to the coming of the larger company. William Cummings and Robert Parker were putting in crops on Center Creek.

## MARK JEFFS

Richard and Martha Walker Jeffs were living at Egdon, Northamptonshire, England, on January 2, 1847, when their youngest son, Mark, was born. Richard's wages as a common laborer was about 50 cents a day. When Mark became seven years old he went to work in a factory ten hours a day and received the princely sum of \$1.00 a week.

When Mark was 15 years old he and his father arrived in Utah. Martha Jeffs had been dead ten years. The Jeffs people traveled in the same train with other Wasatch bound people, the Lindsays, the Montgomerys and others. Soon Mark managed to get a yolk of steers and a little old wagon and he was in the trading business. First he traded necessities for produce—old iron, rags or what have you, and then, happy day, he got a store. It was in connection with his one room house which was fourteen feet square where he lived with his wife and father. The "goods" were kept under the two beds and the table doubled for a counter.

From that humble beginning, Mark Jeffs rose to a power in the County. A large prosperous store, the sire to the Heber Merc., really, the Ideal Theatre, Wasatch High School, part of the Heber Hospital together with several splendid dwelling houses, stand as monuments to his memory.

Because of his early heart-breaking poverty, many a poor soul had good cause to remember and bless Mark Jeffs. Here was a pioneer builder of Wasatch County.

## ISAAC BAUM

On April 7, 1832 in Chester County, Penn., was born a son to John Baum and Hanna Crimson Baum, who was to influence the history of Wasatch County, Utah. The Baum parents named their son Isaac. When Joseph Smith, the founder of the L. D. S. Church, carried his message into Pennsylvania, Isaac's parents believed and cast their lot with him.

Whatever persecutions the early day "Mormons" suffered, Isaac endured along with the others. He moved with his parents to Nauvoo in 1840. Although only a boy, he was a member of the Nauvoo Legion and was on guard duty at the time of the assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

When driven from Nauvoo the Baum family lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa until 1850 when they came to Utah. Their first home was in Provo. It was here Isaac met and married Melissa Sessions in 1856. About this time a handcart company of Utah pioneers became lost. The weather was so severe that grave concern was felt for their safety. Isaac Baum was one of the volunteers who went to their aid.

In the Spring of 1859 the company of men who planned the settlement of Heber Valley had Isaac as one of their number. Just prior to their leaving for Heber, Isaac was called to go to Green River to guard immigrant trains and settlers from Indian depredations. Two years later, when he was released, he came at once to Heber, where he lived until his death on Nov. 19, 1920. He served in both the Black Hawk and Walker Indian Wars. His influence extended to the church he served. He is remembered and respected for his many services.

## THE WASATCH MILITIA

The early years of Wasatch County were years of wildest romance and adventure. The purpose of the first settlers to establish a homesite in a forboding area was memorable. In the main these early people were not farmers, but good farmers they became. They were not military men but soldiers they had to be. Days were times to be cautious and darkness was a fearsome thing. Every rock or tree or gully was a possible screen for a savage Red Man intent on plunder or murder.

By the spring of 1866 many settlers had joined the 1859-60 people and thriving settlements were established in fertile parts of the valley. If only the Indians had been less warlike the pioneers could have been very happy. Crops had been grown; contrary to first predictions. Stout hearts were determined that Heber Valley also should "blossom as the rose."

On May 1, 1866 several companies of fighting men were mustered into service by Mayor John W. Witt, who was commanding officer of the Wasatch Militia. The County was divided into six divisions with officers to command each section. John Hamilton and Sidney Epperson held the rank of Major. John Crook, David Van Wagoner and Charles H. Wilcken were Battalion Adjts.

As the summer of 1866 advanced more men joined the army while the families from the out-lying places moved into Heber for protection.

Actual battles with the Indians in Wasatch County were probably few. It is reported that William Wall's company of fifty men had several skirmishes and at one time killed two Indians and wounded several others. John M. Murdock's company consisted of thirty infantrymen and were assigned to the northern section. Ira N. Jacob's company of seventy guarded the eastern mountains and passes. Thomas Todd with fifty infantrymen served in Rhodes Valley while John Gallagher's men, thirty in number went to Snake Creek. John McCorrel with fifteen cavalrymen were active scouts.

Most of these Wasatch Militiamen remained in the Valley long enough to become well known to later generations. The names are still found in and around nearby places. The name of Charles H. Wilcken may not be so well known and it might be of interest to tell a few things concerning him.

Born in Europe C. H. Wilcken grew up to be a man of gigantic stature yet gentle and mild mannered. Strange as it may seem he made the army his career. In his native country he was awarded the Prussian Iron Cross for gallantry. After coming to the United States he wanted to go west so enlisted in the expedition under General Albert Sidney Johnson that was to operate against the Mormons. Reaching Ft. Bridger with the "Army" he decided to cast his lot with the Utah Pioneers. He served on a mission for the Mormon Church in the early 70's to Switzerland. His knowledge of things military was a great asset to the Wasatch pioneers in their Indian troubles. He helped build our county.

### JOHN MUIR

On the morning of November 12, 1849, a ship named the Zealand is docked at the pier at Liverpool, England. A man is on her deck ready and anxious to sail to the United States. His name is John Muir. He was born at Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, a son of James and Mary Murray Muir. The ship landed its passengers at New Orleans, La., December 24, 1849.

In Scotland John had learned to be a shoemaker. Upon arrival at New Orleans he plied his trade there and at St. Louis, Mo., for upwards of four years. The urge to "gather" in the West became strong within him and he migrated to Utah, arriving there October 10, 1853. After a five-year stay in and around Salt Lake City, he moved "south." For two years he lived in the south and then moved to Provo Valley locating at Heber. Although coming here one year after the original pioneers he should be considered one of the first settlers in Wasatch County.

While John was living in Salt Lake City, he became very interested in a young widow, Govea Fartherinham Turner. Mrs. Turner had a young son, John Turner. Mr. Muir and Mrs. Turner were married March 1, 1855. They lived most of their married life in Heber. They were the kind of people who were known to almost every man, woman and child in the County.

It is with deep appreciation that Turner Building Supply acknowledges receipt of letters from far away cities and towns in the United States, commending them on their recent articles "Pioneers of Wasatch County".

From Inglewood, California comes this comment: "May I commend you on your articles 'Pioneers of Wasatch County', published in the Wasatch Wave? They are choice and the most interesting part of the paper to me."

For the following statement Turner's thank the writer heartily: "It seems one has to live among people from every city, town and state of the United States and other countries, to realize the importance of the early settlers and one's home town and county history."

J. M. Turner says, "A Heber parent who sends the Wave on to their daughter, deserves our gratitude." The daughter has written us to say: "My people send their Wave on to me and I am cutting out your articles and keeping them. My hope is that I have not missed any of them by throwing away a paper in error."

Turner Building Supply do not pretend to be newspaper writers—they just saw another way to serve the people of their community. That this service is being enjoyed is gratifying.

—Let Us Know How Else We Can Serve You—

**TURNER BUILDING SUPPLY**

That good place to buy

Heber — Roosevelt — Vernal

### ROBERT LINDSAY

In the year 1862 several families from Scotland came directly to Heber to settle. Previously, others from nearby shires or even the same Scottish towns had blazed the trail and established homes here so these others could follow. The first of these came in 1859-60.

Robert Lindsay was the oldest member of the Lindsay family who came in 1862. They were six months on the way due to being delayed at the Missouri River for two months while help, in the way of ox teams and wagons came from the "Valley" to haul their belongings over the plains.

Robert must have respected his choice of a homesite because he spent his remaining days in Wasatch County. He and his wife, Sarah A. Murdock, were parents of fifteen children, all of whom abide by the example set by their parents.

Robert Lindsay was always an energetic worker both for his community and his church. He had full faith in the Gospel and showed his faith by his works. At one time he walked from his home over the hills to Francis, Summit County (then in this stake) to fulfill a home missionary appointment. Splendid material went into the building of Robert Lindsay.



One of the most notable of Wasatch County's "great" was Abram Hatch. He was born at Lincoln, Addison County, Vt. on January 3, 1830. At the death of Abram's mother in 1840, the father took his family to Nauvoo to settle. They soon identified themselves with the Mormon cause. It was while he lived in Nauvoo that Abram became a member of the famed Nauvoo Legion.

Soon after his arrival in Utah, Brigham Young appointed Abram Hatch to preside over the Wasatch Stake as its spiritual leader. Heber, then a mere hamlet, became his home. Under the practical management of President Hatch, Wasatch County soon became a very desirable locality and Heber a town of importance.

For twenty years he had a reputation, second to none, as a law maker in Utah's legislative assembly. Among the important measures introduced by him was the giving of elective franchise to women. Another was the setting aside a portion of public revenue for the use of public schools, thus establishing free schools for the children of the State of Utah. A man of strong character was Abram Hatch, practical, intelligent, enterprising.

Today's Enterprising Builders

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### WILLIAM AVERETT

Since Wasatch County was not considered favorably as a homesite until 1859, not many of the 1847 pioneers to Utah came here to live. However, we proudly boast of Wm. Averett as a first settler to Wasatch County and also as a pioneer of 1847 to Utah. Being unmarried in 1859, he did not remain in the valley that first winter. Later he married Elizabeth Hicken and established his home here permanently. Here they reared a family of 9 children.

William Averett was one of those hardy stalwart souls who helped blaze trails and build communities.

In July of 1839 Williams parents had taken refuge in a willow wickiup in Hancock County, Ill. They had been driven from their home by mob violence. Here on July 31, 1839, William was born. In 1847 began the migration of the first company of emigrants to Salt Lake Valley. Although William was but 8 years of age, he drove a herd of sheep across the plains with that first company. It would seem his being cradled in persecution and educated in the school of privation fitted, fortified, and especially qualified him to be a success in this western wilderness.

It was said of Wm. Averett that he was a friend of little children; affectionate and kind to his family; honest and sincere to his fellowman.

The great state of New York can take credit for being the birthplace of Robert Stone Duke on April 14, 1837. Robert's life was most eventful. The persecutions he endured in his youth taught him life-long tolerance and kindness.

After joining the Church he and his wife lived in Nauvoo. They knew Joseph Smith well. When mob violence became the rule in Nauvoo the Duke's were among those who were forced out. They became pioneers to Utah and also to this valley.

Robert S. Duke became bishop of the Heber East Ward, where he was literally a servant of his people. Here he visited the sick, comforted the bereaved and ministered to the poor. His last twenty odd years he served as a patriarch of our stake. The name he bore and passed on to his posterity is one that commands respect throughout Wasatch County. Many now living in our valley will recall with pleasure his driving the "milk wagon". Every morning for many years he called for and collected the milk from the valley farmers and delivered it to the creamery north of town. Our thanks to R. S. Duke, who pioneered and helped build our Wasatch County.

Thanks To These Builders

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### PIONEER PRAYER

The approach of July 24th inspires thoughts of Wasatch Pioneers; the cause for which they came, and the faith that sustained them.

They labored in the burning sun  
Throughout the light of day  
And when the lonely night had come  
They knelt and thus did pray:

Oh, God our Father, do thou bless thy children in this wilderness; as strangers here without a home we trust in Thee, and Thee alone. Protect us until morn again, from prowling beasts and savage men. Direct our feet lest we should fall for we have come here at Thy call and staunch and true we'll ever stand to do Thy will upon this land. Oh! help us drive away the gloom and we will make this desert bloom.

Forgive us Father when we err,  
Our hearts turn back to lands afar  
And friends and kindred that we left,  
Who sigh for us with hearts bereft.  
Content our minds that we may rest  
Like infants on their mother's breast;  
And we will thank Thee to the end;  
Through Jesus Christ Thy Son — Amen.



## JOHN TURNER

When a boat from Great Britain landed on Dec. 24, 1849, at New Orleans there was a six year old child on board who was destined to influence life in Wasatch County. This child was John Turner, son of Govenia Fartheringham Turner, a young widow, who had joined the "Mormon" Church and was enroute to Utah.

John and his mother remained in New Orleans and Alton, Ill. for upwards of four years, finally arriving in Utah in 1853. In 1855 Mrs. Turner married John Muir and together they came to Wasatch about 1860 or at latest, the Spring of 1861.

1862 found many people from John's part of Scotland waiting on the banks of the Missouri River for wagons from the Valley to help them on their way. One of these wagons was driven by nineteen year old John Turner. The possessions of the Lindsay family were loaded into his wagon and John was on his way back.

In the camp on the Missouri a lovely girl of fifteen took John's eye and he caught hers. Together Agnes Montgomery and John Turner walked the weary miles to the Valley. Surely it was delightful "walking", for they were married soon after their arrival.

John Turner, Thomas Nicol and Frank Fraughton formed a partnership and bought one of the first steam power sawmills in the county. Turner bought his partners out and remained in this business most of his active life—marketing his products with R. C. Chambers of the Ontario Mine.

Most of us remember the Turner Opera House and the Turner Store (later the creamery building). These were some of John Turner's contributions to Wasatch County.

Remember For Your Building Needs

## TURNER BUILDING SUPPLY

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## GEORGE MUIR

For reasons best known to themselves, Wasatch County had a special appeal to the Scot. Today we present our tribute to George Muir. He was born at Pentfront, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, October 16, 1831. In 1856 he, with his wife and two small children, came to Utah. He pulled a handcart all the way from Iowa City to Salt Lake City. While crossing the plains a son was born to them. This event caused them to lay over a day but they overtook the main camp the next day.

George Muir and family came to our valley in 1861, but did not remain here continuously all his life; yet so great was his love for his home valley, that he always returned after each adventure away. His activities were so numerous it would be difficult to say just what was his life's work. He was a builder of roads, in particular the Provo Canyon road. He developed several coal mines—some for railroads and some for the Church. He was a successful farmer. He was active in the Black Hawk War. Long will he be remembered for his stalwart qualities. Many of his descendants are respected citizens in Wasatch County.

## THE EDWARD BUYS FAMILY

Several miles south of Heber town plot a big hollow cut through the land and the section was known as Big Hollow. Here the soil, water and general conditions offered unusual opportunity to farm and establish better than average homesites. Into the area came Edward Buys with his family to make a home and brave the dangers incident to the times. The small town then became known as Buysville and later Daniel.

Farther up the canyon than the Buys' home, but still in the Big Hollow, a company of Indians camped each summer to gather the abundant Service Berries and prepare them for winter use. As long as friendly relations existed this was not too disturbing but when actual warfare came, every action took on meaning.

One evening as the Buys children were gathering the night's wood an Indian dashed up on a horse. The badly frightened children ran. Mr. Buys came to the door to investigate. The Indian demanded use of the Buys barn in which to dry and store their "berry cakes" until fall. Gladly Mr. Buys gave permission. When fall came the Indians gathered up their "cakes" and took them to the Uintah Reservation.

On another day, the Buys family saw an Indian maid dressed in her best gallop swiftly by. Soon a well dressed brave inquired about her and followed quickly. Next day the pair returned. The brave had a wife!

Turner Building Supply does not guarantee to furnish all you brave men with a wife but for a

Home For Your Bride Try

## TURNER BUILDING SUPPLY

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

An important announcement — In the past several weeks Turner Building Supply has taken great pleasure in paying tribute to the pioneers of Wasatch. This space has been used for that purpose. After careful consideration it is believed that the "Editorial Page" is a more suitable place to honor our "pioneers", who went before to conquer and subdue our particular wilderness. After this issue, therefore, those of you who are interested in these articles will find them on the editorial page of this paper.

Turner's has been approached by some of our Wasatch County people with a request to assemble these articles in booklet form so those who missed clipping them from the paper may have a full set. At this time the matter is still under consideration.

Turner Building Supply asks that you further honor our Wasatch Pioneers by giving your full support to the Wasatch County Fair now in progress. It too, was made possible by our pioneers.



Such a variety of requests have been received by Turner Building Supply concerning our pioneers that some of that information is now submitted.

To you who have asked for the names of the very first settlers to the valley we offer our findings:

Summer and winter of 1858-59 found Wm. Wall and Wm. Meeks located in Heber Valley. Leaving Provo April 29, 1859 with three wagons drawn by oxen came eleven more men. They were: Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, Wm. Giles, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, John Carlile, James Carlile, George Carlile, Jesse Bond and Wm. Carpenter.

During the spring and early summer of 1859 more families came, planted crops and built homes but as winter approached many returned to Provo. The following 19 families remained. Thomas Crook, John Crook, C. N. Carroll, Elizabeth Carlile, John Jordan, Alexander Sessions, Bradford Sessions, John Sessions, Hyrum Oaks, John Lee, Richard Jones, James Davis, William Davidson, James Laird, Elisha Thomas, James Carlile, George Carlile, Charles N. Thomas and Janet Clotworthy.

The first death was a baby of James and Sarah Cook during June 1859. The first adult death was John Carlile who injured himself while crossing Provo River and died in September 1859. Timpangos Davidson, daughter of Wm. and Ellen Davidson, was the first white child born here. John M. Young was the first school teacher. Charles C. Thomas and Emmeline Sessions contracted the first marriage.

#### CHARLES J. BRONSON

It was neither good luck nor good management that made Wasatch County so outstanding. Rather, it was the type of citizen who was attracted to this community from every far spot.

On October 7, 1853 at Brownstown, Michigan, a son was born to Edwin and Mary Clark Bronson. He was named Charles J. Bronson and was destined to be a servant of our county. In 1856 this family moved to Provo, Utah. Shortly after the Bronson's arrived in Provo the "movement" toward settlement of Heber Valley began. The Bronson family joined this pioneer movement. The valley west of Heber plot seemed better to them and Midway township claimed them as pioneers.

The son, Charles J., naturally craved learning and proceeded to obtain an education in both day and night schools. He was probably better educated than most boys of his time in Wasatch County. Because of his qualities of leadership he held many civic offices. He was school board member for 36 years, serving as president of the board after the district was consolidated.

Charles J. Bronson married Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Mark and Agnes Smith, and became the parents of Edith B. Van Wagoner and Louella Bronson—grandfather of Ferrin Van Wagoner. Consider the descendants of C. J. Bronson now in the field of education! The qualities of C. J. Bronson still serves the county educationally. To satisfy a critical public for 36 years is an achievement.

Into Wasatch County came one man who had as much determination, perhaps more, than anyone who ever came. This man was Thomas Todd. He says, "I was a great Bible reader and I became dissatisfied with my religious beliefs and my father's."

Thomas married in January, 1850, and on September 15, 1850 he joined the Church and began to want to join the body of the Church. No amount of pleading or intreaty—no form of bribery could induce him to stay in Scotland. Shortly before they were to leave, his oldest son died. His people felt he would not leave that little grave alone for the sake of a strange religion which they could not accept. Thomas' brother, Alexander, came as far as New York with them. Alexander even offered Thomas one-half of all his earthly possessions if he would return. Thomas chose his church and Wasatch County and never lost one second in regrets.

He took his turn in standing guard in Echo Canyon to resist Johnson's Army. When he got back home his family had been moved to Spanish Fork where he joined them. He participated in the Black Hawk War. He came to Wasatch in 1860 or 1861.

On May 17, 1863 Pres. Wm. M. Wall and Bishop Stacy Murdock ordered the Sacrament administered for the first time in Wasatch County at the home of Thomas Todd. He held many church and civic positions.

He was noted for his fine buildings and his mansion of a home. For a pioneer dwelling it was a masterpiece and still is. Whether the building was small or elaborate he built them well.

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#### JOHN DUKE

The year 1840 found John Duke on his way to Nauvoo, Illinois from New York which was his birth state. It took John several months to reach Nauvoo as he worked at his trade as a brick mason along the way. The Duke family were in Nauvoo when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed. When ordered to leave the city by the mobsters, the Duke's were unable to do so because of serious illness in the family. John tried to explain the situation to the mob but was told to "get going" as that was good enough for Mormons. Some of their kin returned with teams and wagons and the Duke family joined the body of the "Saints" and no harm came to them.

1850 saw them setting out for Utah. By 1851 John had a brick kiln in Provo. He returned to help other Mormons across the plains. He was a Pony Express rider.

In 1860, John yielded to the appeal of Wasatch County and moved to the old London Spring where he set up a brick kiln. He had found a home which he never left for long. At one time John and Robert Duke walked to Provo and carried a plow. One of John's outstanding contributions to Heber Valley was the large tract of land he gave as a cemetery.



## EARLY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Early in the life of Wasatch County provisions were made to create a satisfactory county government. As had been mentioned before, John Witt was appointed probate judge by the Territorial Legislature on February 22, 1862. Judge Witt, in turn, appointed Thomas Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner as selectmen. These men were known as the County Court.

It became the duty of this court to appoint officers to man the various departments necessary to good government. The appointees were as follows: Sheriff, Snelling M. Johnson; assessor, John Harvey; surveyor, John Sessions; prosecuting attorney, C. N. Carroll; Supt. of Schools, Thomas A. Giles; Justice of the Peace, Thomas Rasband, with Zermia Palmer, constable of Precinct No. 1; Norton Jacobs, Justice of the Peace, and Sidney Epperson, constable of Precinct No. 2; treasurer, John M. Murdoch.

As treasurer, Mr. Murdoch was also tax collector. Taxes were seldom paid in money. The collector was obliged to receive wheat, barley, oats, potatoes or other produce. When the payment was made in either wheat or oats, \$2.00 a bushel was allowed. If produce was used to pay a fine or court costs, \$1.50 a bushel was allowed for wheat and \$1.25 for oats. Payment was made at the old "Tithing Office" of the L.D.S. Church, which for a number of years served also as the court house.

When the time arrived for a school to be conducted, it was believed by many that a bowery was all that was necessary. John M. Murdoch promptly vetoed any such suggestion, claiming there was nothing too good for the children. The result was a fine rock building.

There are some yet among us who remember John M. Murdoch as the treasurer of Wasatch County and many more who recall the occasion upon which he and his wife, Ann, celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. Honesty and durability were qualities of this fine citizen.

## ANN STEELE

Not all pioneers of Wasatch were men; not all hardships were faced by men. Women endured by the side of their men. Living amid modern luxuries it is difficult to remember the extreme poverty of possessions that were endured by our founders. Certainly they built for us under most primitive conditions and with crude materials.

Ann Steele was born at Kirkconnel, Dunfriesshire, Scotland, Oct. 27, 1829. At that time Wasatch County was a Spanish possession. In her youth she married John M. Murdoch, and together they and their children began the long trek to Utah, where they arrived in 1852. The trip was a trial of anyone's faith. On the way their two eldest children died and were left by the wayside.

We are told that Ann S. Murdoch ever bore these conditions with dignity and devotion. She became the mother of 15 fine children. That she was an active and energetic worker goes without saying. After several "moves" the family chose to make their home in Heber Valley. For the superior service she rendered we will always cherish her memory.

## WILLIAM AND EMMA PERKINS LUKE

In Manchester, England, lived Wm. and Emma Perkins Luke. To them was born a large family. When Mormon missionaries came into their neighborhood, William Luke heard and believed their message. Three of his sons also believed. They were Henry, Wm. Jr., and Charles. In 1850 Wm. Sr., left England and crossed the ocean. Here he acquired oxen and crossed the plains arriving in Manti, Utah. As he worked he made plans to send for his family.

In 1853, Henry, Wm., Jr. and Charles and his wife started across the Atlantic. Time after time they encountered wind storms that blew the ship back to land. However, they at last found conditions favorable and landed in Salt Lake City, October 19, 1853. Eager to meet and enjoy a reunion with their father, they were met with the news that he had been killed by Indians at Uintah Springs near Fountain Green in Sanpete County.

Henry Luke met and married Harriet E. Luce, April 18, 1857, and together they moved to Heber Valley. They built the first house outside the fort; planted the first shade trees in the valley, part of which are still standing. He helped fence the North Field and build the first school house. He was called to help settle "Dixie" but was recalled to Heber. He acted as interpreter at the peace meets. He died in 1867 aged 31 years. Henry Luke used his earthly time to splendid advantage.

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## ROBERT MCKNIGHT

Scotland again and again produces stalwarts who became of vital importance to Wasatch County. One of these was Robert McKnight, who was the son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight of Glasgow. He was born Jan. 1, 1803. He joined the Mormon Church when he was real young and for this his parents turned him out. To subsist he worked in the coal pits.

Robert met a noted botanist who took to him and together they roamed the hills studying herbs and their uses. "Uncle Bob" learned well and became a herb doctor, helping for the rest of his life to heal the sick. Upon occasion he would walk to Kamas or Provo to help the sick. He felt his God had given him a special blessing, the gift of healing.

Bob McKnight was a large man with red hair and beard. He was powerful and active, with a keen wit and ready speech. He loved his church to the extent that when his first wife would not join he left her and came on alone. He built his home in Heber, where John Anderson's first home now stands. He was captain of immigration for the church, meeting many from his native land as they arrived and speeding them on their way. It was a privilege to know Robert McKnight.



Henry McMullin, Sr. was born in the State of Maine. When a young man he married Mary Pierce. To them were born four sons, Calvin, Albert, Alfonso and Henry L., while they yet lived in Maine. Henry was a carpenter and ship builder. His family was well to do and had extremely comfortable surroundings. About 1845 the Mormon Missionaries succeeded in converting this family. They decided they could not live their religion and remain in their comfortable homes. By 1855 they decided they must gather with their kind in far away Utah.

Henry and his wife fitted teams and wagons with all possible comforts. Just before they left they lost their first born son. This event nearly lost Wasatch County a fine group of citizens as they felt they could not leave the newly made grave. By 1858 the McMullins had reached Provo Canyon near Vivian Park and opened a sawmill. In 1861 the move to Heber was made.

Being a carpenter and ship builder stood him in good stead. He built houses and barns, etc, using pegs instead of nails. Since there were no planing mills these were made by hand. The early deaths in the valley were buried in coffins made by Mr. McMullin. The first hotel in Heber was built where Ashton's property now stands by this master builder.

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### WILLIAM BUYS

December 22, 1852, was a lucky day for Wasatch County. A son was born to Hyrum D. and Elizabeth Huntington Buys, whom they named William. Hyrum Buys died when William was three years old, so our deep gratitude goes to the mother who insisted upon upright living and a sound education for her son.

After William Buys graduated from the University of Utah in 1878, he came to Wasatch as a teacher. He married Sarah Jane McDonald in 1883. They were the parents of eleven children. While teaching school he served the county as surveyor for five successive terms. About the year of his marriage or shortly after he began the study of law. In 1886 he was elected county attorney which office he held for twelve years. Mr. Buys was a member of the State Bar Association and also the constitutional convention of Utah. In 1889 William Buys decided Wasatch County needed a newspaper, so he founded and established the Wasatch Wave which he managed and edited while he lived. Though only 57 years old when he died Wm. Buys had done much for education and progress in our county. His last editorial was a plea for better roads, better lighting and better building in Wasatch County.

Atop the Daughters of Utah Pioneers monument in Midway, Utah occupying a place of honor is a large granite stone, worn smooth from its years of useful service to the people of Wasatch County. This millwheel was brought to Midway by John Halmoh Van Wagoner with the help of two teams of oxen. With hammer and chisel Mr. Van Wagoner shaped the large stone into the first millwheel in the county.

John H. Van Wagoner was born at Wanaque, New Jersey, Sept. 1, 1811, where he grew to manhood and married. Shortly after joining the Church he began the journey to Utah, where he arrived Sept. 20, 1852. He was heartily welcomed as a very useful member of the pioneer colony. He was a carpenter, cabinet maker, wheelwright, and millwright as well as a skilled mechanic. He helped with both Zion and Beehive houses and the Eagle Gate, also building furniture for Brigham Young and others.

In 1861 he moved to Midway, settling in the lower section, where he proceeded to build Wasatch County's first grist mill.

He gave of his supply to those less fortunate. He furnished oxen and wagons to bring others across the plains to Zion. His long life was spent building for the benefit of others. John Van Wagoner was a talented musician and this great gift was shared with the people among whom he cast his lot.

His 19 children say, "His life was a sermon."

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### THE OLD TOLL GATE

Road building in the early days of Utah was a hard job. Rocks had to be moved largely by hand or with what help they could get from teams of oxen or poor horses. Road equipment was non-existent. In order to have a passable road between Provo and Heber Valley a company of men organized a road group and paid the expenses of building a highway. In order to be repaid they built a toll gate, locating it at the bottom of a hill about two miles from the mouth of the canyon. A toll of 50c was charged travelers who had a team; a single horse got by for a quarter. Thus a fund was created to pay the debt already involved and to insure future upkeep. Spring Dell in Provo Canyon is built very near the old toll gate site.

This may not seem to many to be a Wasatch County pioneer venture but none can deny that it helped further the cause of Heber Valley by making it more accessible. To those builders we owe a debt of gratitude. To anyone who has made living in our valley more pleasant and profitable we extend thanks.

The year 1844 saw the Daybell family in England become interested and finally join the Mormon Church. They migrated to Utah as means would permit. The first to arrive was Susan, then 15 years of age. She came in 1863. Two years later the parents came, bringing with them Sarah, Elizabeth, George and William. Robert and Ann were left in England. The family settled in Charleston, Wasatch County.

In 1866 Robert, his wife, and one child left England. While crossing the plains Robert was chosen among others to go in search of much needed food. The hunters separated and after a few hours only Robert had not rejoined the company. Several days were spent searching for him but no trace was ever found. He was probably drowned in the Platt River.

Ann Daybell, who had married outside the Church, remained in England. When, in 1881, this man finally joined the Church, this remaining member of the Daybell family prepared to leave her native land and join her family. They arrived in Salt Lake City, June 4, 1882.

William became bishop of Charleston Ward and served his Church and community in many ways.

Notable For Community Service

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#### A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

On March 23, 1951, Turner Building Supply Company began a service to the people of Wasatch County. They believed more should be known and told concerning the pioneers of Wasatch. As a result a series of articles have been published, one appearing each week ever since. Many people have expressed satisfaction with these brief histories of the people who have made possible the fine life we have in Heber Valley.

Nearly a hundred years of improvement and building has gone into the making of Wasatch County. There are still a few among us who have witnessed almost every major change that has taken place. D. N. Murdock and D. W. Hicken have noted with pride the development and growth of their loved county. Elizabeth Wootton, Hannah Cummings, Amelia Montgomery and others are among those who have seen the worn and useless things be replaced with new. The passing of John H. Price removes from among us one who was born in the county when it was in its infancy.

Turner's enjoy bringing to your knowledge the life and works of these fine people. They would appreciate hearing from you if you are finding and reading these articles. Tell them.

John Watkins, who was born April 13, 1834 at Kent, England was a true pioneer. He joined the Mormon Church in England. With his wife and three children he emigrated to Utah with the unfortunate Martin Company in 1856. On his first trip to Wasatch Valley he was so pleased with what he saw that in 1865 he moved to the west side of the Valley in the lower settlement. At the time of the Indian trouble he moved with the other settlers into the fort between the two settlements.

With the ending of the Black Hawk War, John Watkins and others began to plot a town to be known as Midway. Believing the main street was too narrow the people on the North side, at John's suggestion, donated two rods of ground each to make it wider.

It is unusual for one man to be "first" in as many things as are credited to John Watkins. Here is a partial list of his endeavors that are firsts: He made the first bricks; built the first brick house (where Mrs. H. T. Coleman lives now); planted the stately pines at that site; built the first lime kiln; the first saw mill; helped engineer and survey the first waterworks system; helped survey and plot the Midway cemetery, his own child being the first person buried there; with his sons, sawed and built the first suspension bridge over Provo River; built the Bonner homes. He acted as presiding elder over Charleston. When bishops were installed he was made first councilor to David Van Wagoner. He was the father of 32 children. John Watkins was a real benefactor to Wasatch County.

Another Wasatch County Benefactor

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#### BILLY FERGUSON

A passable road from Provo to Heber was a very necessary thing in the early years of the county. Unless a person started very early and traveled very late it was impossible to get to Provo in one day. Oxen were slow and the horses of early pioneers were most inferior. The old toll gate helped meet expenses of road making.

Midway between Provo and Heber Valley was a very famous roadhouse owned and operated by a Scot named Billy Ferguson. Here he sold lunches and soft drinks. Mr. Ferguson was excellent company and was sought by all to help entertain with song and dance. He was known as an excellent host. His place of business was neat; his surroundings interesting and pleasant. Visitors to his house hate to leave.

Billy Ferguson loved his mountain solitude. One winter night a huge snow slide completely covered the home of this kindly man and all his pets and possessions "as if the Almighty had tucked him in for a long sleep." One story says that when Spring broke and he was reached he was sitting at the table. Mr. Ferguson was a valuable man for Wasatch County.



## SOLDIER SUMMIT, WASATCH COUNTY

Most people living in Wasatch County are prone to think of it as being Heber City surrounded by Midway, Charleston, Wallburg, Daniel and Center Creek and a few scattered farms and industries. Little is known locally of the last region in Wasatch County to be pioneered, settled and then, almost abandoned. This place is Soldier Summit.

The stories told by old settlers are to the effect that a fragment of Johnson's Army became separated from the main body somewhere in Wyoming and wandered into this part of Wasatch County where they perished from cold and exposure during the winter of 1857. Hence the name of Soldier Summit.

Whoever found and buried these men were most kind. Each grave is well-marked with a cross of rocks laid on the surface of each grave. A fence was built around the six graves.

The D. R. G. & Western Railroad chose Soldier Summit as a division point. Here a thriving, rather tough town, grew up only to be forsaken when trainmen found it impossible to fight the snow and cold. The division was returned to Helper.

According to the town record there should be 96 people there, but that figure seems much to "hopeful." In Soldier Summit you find one of the County's best equipped schools. Community loyalty is unsurpassed. No service is too great for our patrons to perform. Recently men waded in snow to their armpits to bring in the Christmas tree. On next Sunday afternoon the parents will gather and trim the tree after which everyone will partake of a fine community supper and take part in a song fest. Every child will receive a gift and Santa will not forget the adults when the big party is held December 20, 1951.

## FIRST CHRISTMAS IN WASATCH COUNTY

From the available records it can be assumed that the very first Christmas in Wasatch County was a lonely affair for the two men who shared it. Wm. Meeks and Wm. Wall had made camp for themselves and their cattle on Daniel Creek. They had cut sufficient grass in the valley to winter their cattle. This was the winter of 1858-1859 but is not classed as actually being the first winter the valley was inhabited.

With the coming of spring in 1859, a new life began for Heber Valley. Hopeful settlers arrived and here they built their homes from whatever materials the land provided. The cabins were built in fort shape to protect the settlers from wild beasts and savage men. In the center of the fort a meeting house was erected which served for all purposes. In this humble, makeshift townsite, nineteen families wintered and celebrated the first real Christmas.

Later acquaintance with these families assures us this first Wasatch County Christmas was a very satisfactory and happy one. No moaning, no tears, you can wager—instead they gave thanks to their Maker for deliverance from their enemies. They praised their Father, who granted them the privilege of making their homes in Wasatch County.

Turner Building Supply takes this opportunity to extend greetings and thanks to all settlers of Wasatch for their patronage.

## ROBERT MONTGOMERY

Robert Montgomery was the seventh child of Robert Montgomery and Agnes Shepherd. He was born Jan. 7, 1825 in Churchtown, Ireland. At what age he entered the British army is not known but at the age of fifteen years he left the army and went to Scotland. Records show that at the age of 22, Robert Montgomery married Mary Rogers Lowrie of Airshire, Scotland.

During the winter of 1846 Robert and Mary joined the Mormon Church. Robert was called to preside over the Airshire district. To provide for an ever increasing family, Robert worked in the mines in various capacities. Since this work was proving very detrimental to his health he decided to emigrate to Utah, which he did in 1861. Having friends in Wasatch County he went at once to Heber Valley and proceeded to plan for the coming of his family.

While preparing his home in Heber, Robert worked as a pioneer cabinet maker. He made the desk that was used in the old tithing office. Of material things he had on hand, besides his cabin, a large wagon box full of grain, a few potatoes, several sheep skins (to be used as bedding) and a cow.

Robert and his family were reunited on September 22, 1862 only to be permanently separated January 10, 1863 by the death of Robert. He was at this time 38 years and 3 days old. Mary, aged 32 years, was left with 7 children to face the dreary winter and the years ahead.

This was the humble start of the Montgomery family in Wasatch County. Agnes, oldest child of this family became the mother of John M. Turner who in turn

Became The Founder Of

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## TO PROMOTE GOOD WILL

The primary reason for any advertising campaign is to promote good will and increase sales. In line with this thinking Turner Building Supply believed the general public would be interested in a series of articles about the men and women who pioneered and built Wasatch County. This series began last March.

Many people have expressed their appreciation by letter, word of mouth and actual business transactions that have demonstrated their worth. The question now is, are you, the reading and buying public, still interested enough in these articles to hunt them up and enjoy them. Do you wish to have them continued or would you prefer to have Turner's serve you in some other way?

Will you then, please contact Turner Building Supply by phone, by letter or just stop in at the store and make your wishes known? If you have lost interest, be frank and say so. There would be no reason to continue the articles about Wasatch pioneers if the interest is gone. Therefore, unless there is a favorable and immediate response to this query, "Pioneers of Wasatch" will be discontinued.

The father of Henry and Johnathan Clegg was the second person in the British Isles to be baptised into the Mormon Church. In order to determine who should be first, Henry Clegg, Sr. and a Mr. Watts ran a race to the banks of the River Ripple. Mr. Clegg came out second. Two sons of this man immigrated to Utah and left their influence in Wasatch County. They were Henry Clegg, Jr. and Johnathan Clegg.

Henry Clegg and his two wives, Ann and Margaret, together with a son from a former marriage moved into the Springville area in the year 1858. Johnathan Clegg chose Wasatch County as his homesite. Later when Henry's growing family needed more land he yielded to Johnathan's pleas and made the move to Heber Valley.

In Heber the families did well and soon owned their own land and homes. To supplement their income Henry operated a shingle mill in a nearby canyon.

Henry held many church positions, one of which was Bishop of Heber West Ward. He was well educated in Latin and shorthand. He lectured widely at one time on phrenology. He was a farmer, school teacher and merchant. He played the dulcimer for dancing and entertained with his wives by singing at gatherings.

This early pioneer did his humble best with whatever materials was at hand. Think what it would have meant to him

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#### CHARLES E. THACKER

The Thacker name is no stranger in Wasatch County. It is almost a synonym for builder. Wm. Thacker and his wife gave up all their earthly possessions to come to Utah. So far as can be proven they were the only members of the family to immigrate to Utah for their religion.

Charles E. Thacker, a son of this couple, was born in Salt Lake City, August 18, 1862. His father was a restless man and moved from place to place until in 1870 he found Heber Valley. The family was large and very poor as to worldly goods. Everyone had to work hard to acquire a few material things.

When Charles was 14 years old he got a job in Center Creek in the timber. It seemed to satisfy him. When only 15 years of age he was working in Wallsburg. One day while he was on the Wallsburg road he met a girl on a horse. Her big brown eyes and black hair captivated Charles. Turning to his companion he said, "That is my girl!" He later married her.

Finally Charles got into the lumber business with saw mills at various places. He sawed cordwood at Bonanza Flat and operated shingle mills in nearby canyons. Eventually he made Charleston his home. Wasatch County remembers with esteem and gratitude Charles E. Thacker, the builder.

Our roll call of pioneers would not be complete without the names of T. A. Dannenberg and his wife. T. A. was born into poor financial circumstances in Texas in 1880. He acquired even his elementary training the hard way, through self effort. He was graduated from Physicians and Surgeon's College in San Francisco in 1904.

The hard work required to finance himself and long hours of mental effort to obtain his degree resulted in loss of health. He was under observation for T. B. Dr. Dannenberg refused to be bested by a mere bug. He went to the high country around Kamas and here he claims to have cured himself of the threat to his health.

It was here he met the lady who became his wife. She claims little formal education. She worked with her husband and became a good nurse and anesthetist. It is said of her—Maud Dannenberg is a lovely, gracious lady, whom we are proud to call neighbor and friend.

The Dannenbergs lived here 21 years. They made Heber Hospital a place of confidence and hope. During his practice, Dr. Dannenberg returned to school for further study eleven times. His studies and research have made definite contributions to better surgery—especially as it concerns stomach and intestines.

The respect of the community for these people is demonstrated each time they return for a visit.

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#### HENRY OHLWILER

Henry Ohlwiler was born Sept. 15, 1833 at Harbor Creek, Erie County, Penn. When he was just a young fellow the spirit of adventure took strong hold of him and two of his brothers. Three friends joined them and they started out to seek their fortune as prospectors. During their wanderings Henry and one of his friends met Peter Shirts, who brought them to Midway, then called Mound City. From there Henry went to Heber and made his home with the Sessions family until his marriage to Eliza Jane Harvey.

When it became necessary to have a man to be in charge of the lakes at the head of Provo River, Henry Ohlwiler was selected and ably filled this assignment, being the first man to hold this position.

He was an expert woodsman and could cut a load of wood quicker than most men. He was well known as an excellent carpenter. During the Black Hawk War he stood guard to help protect his city. He served as a school trustee and road supervisor. Henry Ohlwiler not only served; he responded to authority.



It is with pleasure we acknowledge a letter from Mrs. J. M. Casper. Mrs. Casper enclosed notes on her family connections from which we will write this week's Pioneer Profile.

In May of the year 1864 the ship General McClellan was ready to sail for America from England. On board were the James Price, George Powell and Edward Payne families. After a successful crossing these families joined the Joseph Rawlins train and proceeded to cross the plains. For the Price family the trip was most eventful. One child was born and one died while on the way.

It was the fall of 1864 before they arrived in Heber. There was not a house to be had and no time to make one so the seventeen people in this party cleaned out a log barn belonging to Joseph Stacy Murdock. After daubing the cracks with mud and building a fireplace for cooking purposes, the group wintered in the barn using sage brush for fuel.

For three years the Prices lived in Heber but after the birth of John H. Price they moved to Charleston. There were 13 children in the Price family.

Ann Price made the bread and cared for the Sacrament dishes for 30 years. On her shopping trips to Turner's Store, Ann enjoyed visiting and knitting with Agnes Turner, who clerked in the store. They were fast friends. The friendly feeling between these families has not changed. The Price family was friendly with Turner's old store.

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### DAVID FISHER, SR.

David Fisher, Sr. was born at Johnston, Renfrewshire, Scotland on June 15, 1824. He took all possible advantage of early Scotch schools and church activities. As a very young man he went to work in the J. and P. Coats Thread Mills. It was there he met an Irish girl named Martha McKay, who at 11 years of age had left her native land to work in the Scottish thread mills. David married her.

This couple joined the Mormon Church and began the westward movement to Utah. They arrived in Salt Lake City in September, 1860 and moved to Heber in 1865.

David worked in a flour mill to support his family. When Indian troubles developed he enrolled in the Territorial Militia.

After peace was restored David moved back to Salt Lake City and went to work at Devil's Gate on the Union Pacific Railroad. Here he was accidentally killed on August 11, 1868. The Fisher family returned to Heber and remained permanently. They married useful, home loving people and exercised an influence for good on the county.

To render service was the lot of our early pioneers. To them, this was not a hardship but a distinct privilege. Of Wm. Henry Bagley it is said, "He rendered service to the pioneers of Wasatch County by standing guard to keep Indians away from people and their cattle.

Wm. H. Bagley married Hannah Burner when she was sixteen years old. Hannah Bagley rendered service by herding sheep for a family named Maefield. Hannah and William moved to Charleston where they made their first home under a big tree. Here they lived until Indians drove them away. They went to Midway for a short time. Charleston seemed home to them and soon they returned.

Hannah took wool on shares to spin and make into clothing for her husband and children.

If there was anyone sick or in distress in the town, Hannah was there to render service by helping and comforting. From the time she came to Utah in 1853 until her life ceased she gave of her time and talents freely and without restraint.

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### AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS

March 21, 1952 marks the close of one year of our writing articles concerning the activities of the Pioneers of Wasatch County. The items have been searched out of public and private records. We now have reached a place where our source of information is almost exhausted. This is an appeal to you our readers. It pleases us to publish the biographies but we are going to need your help. Please send us the incidents relative to your personal history. It is very necessary if we are to continue these articles as we have no other way to get the facts.

We are grateful for the histories we have received and published. There are still unlimited biographies of some of our most important pioneers, of whom we have no information.

Many of you have asked to have these articles made available in pamphlet or book form. At present we are investigating this additional service. If it can be done so they can be sold at a price you would be willing to pay, Turner's will be happy to supply them.

If this space is ever left blank you will know we have run out of material to fill it. The next week it will be discontinued unless your interest in the Pioneers of Wasatch prompts you to send us the history of your own special pioneer.

## NATHAN C. SPRINGER

Nathan C. Springer was born June 26, 1843, in New Bedford, Mass. Most of the men of New Bedford take to the sea very early in life in order to make their living. Nate began as cabin boy on a ship of which his brother was captain.

While Nate was a very young man he joined a company of men who were bound for the California gold fields. Upon arriving in Utah, it being late fall, the company remained during the winter. When travel was resumed in the spring Nathan Springer chose to make his home in Utah. He became a Wasatch County pioneer.

He married Matilda Robey, November 2, 1867. To them were born eight children, two of whom are still living this 7th day of March, 1952. They are Mrs. Emily Coleman and J. R. Springer, both of Midway, Utah.

Nate was actively interested in mining around Utah, especially Snake Creek and Park City Mines. In connection with this interest he went to Mexico in 1886 to investigate some mining properties. While there he decided to visit a brother who was living at Bluefield, Nicaragua in Central America. While on a fishing trip in a small sail boat with a companion, a severe squall came up and the boat was capsized. Both men were drowned. Nathan's body was recovered and buried at Bluefield.

His Family Is Well Respected By—

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## CHRISTINA HOWE

Craighall is a farming district of Scotland. Here on July 3, 1823, was born Christina Howe. She lived the life common to girls of her age and time, hiring out as dairy maid. This included outside as well as inside work on the farm.

In 1844 she married William Lindsay. When they joined the Mormon Church in 1848, Christina was disowned by her family. William acted as district president of his church for several years. He supported his family by working in the coal mines where he was killed by a falling slab of coal October 17, 1861, leaving to his wife the care and support of eight children. Living up to the plans made by her husband, Christina immigrated to Utah in 1862, finally making Heber Valley her home.

She worked as a seamstress and cook until her marriage to George Muir. Two more sons were born to her. Her children became respected, useful citizens.

Christina Lindsay Muir said, "I think Heber Valley must be in the hollow of God's hand, it is such a sweet goodly place to be."

## MARY MURDOCK

Mary Murdock was born in Gaswater, Scotland, November 19, 1819. Being the daughter of a widowed mother, she learned to work in the home and also to do dairy work at an early age. She married Allen Mair, a shepherd and farmer. They were the parents of nine children.

About 1850 Mary joined the Mormon Church. Allen stayed with his old religion and wished his children also to remain faithful. Mary's mother and two brothers had joined the church. The brothers, John M. and William Murdock were in Utah. The mother, a member of Martin's company, died while crossing the plains.

Mary knew her life could not be lived as she wished, nor her children reared as she desired if she remained in Scotland. Obtaining permission of her husband to go on a short visit she took her three youngest children and left. When her husband went to fetch her she was three days on her way to Utah.

Sometime after her arrival in Utah, she married Daniel McMillian, a widower and the village blacksmith. They built the rock house now a part of the service station operated by Earl Montgomery.

Mary McMillian was an invalid for eleven years but found time even then to serve her fellowmen.

In Scotland, Allen Mair would never allow his door to be locked, always hoping his wife would return.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON CLYDE

George Washington Clyde was the oldest of eight children born to George and Cynthia Davis Clyde. He was born in Ogdensburg, New York, July 8, 1825.

Heber C. Kimball came to their home in 1835 with a gospel message that caused them to join the Mormon Church and begin the westward migration. By 1838, traveling the entire distance by ox team, they had reached a campsite a few hundred yards from Haun's Mill. They were eye witnesses to the Haun's Mill massacre.

George Clyde, Sr., died in Nauvoo in 1844 leaving the family in poor circumstances. They were forced out of Nauvoo but were unable then to make the journey to Utah. George W. and his brother William reached Utah in 1850 and succeeded in getting enough provisions and equipment together to bring their mother to Salt Lake.

George W. married Jane McDonald in 1850 and settled in Springville. In 1860 they came to Provo Valley with a few other families, bringing what cattle they had. This was good range country. They began to prosper.

After their early hardships they were so proud and happy when in 1874 they were able to build a fine new sandstone house. It was a beautiful home and was beautifully landscaped. It is still standing at the North end of Main Street.

Mr. Clyde organized the first brass band in Heber, the first instrument being purchased in 1885. George and Jane Clyde were examples of industry and thrift.



The time was the year 1842, the place Belfast, Ireland at the home of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Here a Mormon Elder was explaining his religious beliefs. James and Sarah were one of the first four families to accept the gospel in this town and prepare to move to Utah.

They were the parents of seven children, Jane, Eliza, John, William, Mary, Robert and Joseph S. James earned a living by following the flax dressing trade. His wages were small. He had three acres of land where they raised vegetables and fruits. A goat provided their milk.

Sarah was very ambitious and wanted to help get to Zion. A story is told of how she went shopping one day and bought a little pig which she carried home under her arm. She raised the pig and with the money she got she started a small store, thus helping to get money to help come to Utah. The sale of home and land netted them two hundred dollars.

After reaching America they lived in Nauvoo and Bonepart, Iowa until the father and boys had obtained 3 yoke of oxen, 2 wagon, 2 yoke of cows and a pony. In the spring of 1850 they began the long journey to Zion. James died of cholera and was buried, without a casket, on the North bank of the Platte River.

The family settled first in Springville but moved to Heber in 1862, all but Eliza who stayed in Springville, and Robert, who went to California. The rest of the family lived in Wasatch County the remainder of their lives.

Sarah was known by everybody and lovingly called Granny Mc.

#### THOMAS NICOL

Thomas Nicol was born November 22, 1824 at Coletton, Scotland. He was the son of Thomas Nicol and Elizabeth Dryber. He came to Utah with his wife Elizabeth Watson Nicol and 5 children in 1853. Elizabeth died in 1858 at their home in Bountiful, Utah.

That same year he married Johanna Christina Hanberg. She was a handcart pioneer of 1857. She had eleven children. Thomas later married Johanna C. Hansen. She also came from Denmark. Her only child was Dora Elizabeth, born Sept. 29, 1865. She married James S. Murdock.

In 1866, Thomas married another Danish girl, Maria Nelson. One child was born but died in infancy.

Mr. Nicol was a missionary in Scotland. When he came to Utah he was in the front lines in the Echo Canyon War with the Lot Smith Company. He fought Indians in Moroni and in Heber where he permanently located in 1860. He made two trips to the Missouri River to help the immigrants to Utah.

Every winter, after his crops were harvested, he took his team, wagon and food supplies and went wherever he was needed to work on the various temples being built. He helped with all early necessary improvements. He stood ready and willing to help those less fortunate.

Dr. W. R. Wherritt was the youngest of a family of five sons. He was born at Pleasant Hill, Mo., Dec., 16, 1875. After being graduated from the Kansas City School of Medicine in 1898 he was faced with the problem, "where to locate." Two of the older brothers were living in Park City and they wished him to join them and help make a home for their widowed mother, which he did. He came to Park City, then on to Heber Valley to visit the hot pots. He liked Heber and decided to remain.

Dr. Wherritt married Emma Hatch in September 1900. Their two sons became fine doctors. Their daughter married Dean Todd of Heber.

All the hardships of rural practice before electricity or improved roads were endured by Dr. Wherritt. He went through all the trials of lack of trained help. One New Year's Eve he was lost in a blizzard between Charleston and Heber. His horse refused to face the storm and wandered around in a circle. There were no fences or land marks. Eventually he got his directions and was able to make his visit and return home.

Dr. Wherritt loved his profession, the faithful horses that served him well and his dogs. He loved dearly this beautiful valley and its people. The mountains were a source of strength—he often quoted, "I lift up mine eyes to the hills, whence cometh my strength." Another of his favorite quotations was, "Make the work that you do the play that you love."

He was in his 49th year of practice of medicine in Wasatch County when he died suddenly of a heart attack on November 4, 1948. He was a friend to everyone.

#### WILLIAM AIRD

William Aird was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, March 3, 1821. He was one of the earliest settlers to our valley, coming to Utah in 1859 and to Heber Valley in 1860. He was a weaver by trade and owned the first spinning wheel and loom in the county.

He married Elizabeth McClain and together they endured the hardships of pioneer life. She helped her husband spin yarn and weave cloth to make clothes for their children and other people. They were the parents of three boys and three girls.

Henry M. Aird took to education not only for himself but to help others. The schools of Wasatch County became fine places of learning under his leadership. Many people in Wasatch County can well thank Henry Aird for their start in educational pursuits.

John W. Aird was graduated from the University of Deseret (Utah). He taught school for five years in Heber, then studied medicine in California. After practicing in Heber for several years he moved to Provo where he established a hospital and practiced surgery.

The girls married in Heber and many of their descendants are among our leading citizens.

## HENRY COLEMAN, SR.

Henry Coleman, Sr. came to Utah in 1850. He was then 14 years of age. He found employment in Big Cottonwood where he earned enough to send for his two brothers, William and Louis Coleman. He made a number of trips back on the Mormon Trail to meet the immigrants. On one of these trips he met a lovely young English girl, Mary Jane Threlkeld, whom he married November 30, 1860 at Big Cottonwood. Four children were born to them.

The family moved to Midway in 1864, where he purchased a farm and built and operated the first sawmill in Wasatch County. He ran a small grocery store in connection with the mill. He died December 25, 1867, after a brief illness at the early age of 31. He was the first adult to be buried in the lower cemetery at Midway.

Mary Jane Coleman after a few years married Joseph McCarrell, who was a pioneer of Wasatch County. To them were born 5 children.

Mrs. McCarrell operated the first millinery shop in Midway and was also an expert dressmaker. She held many church offices besides caring well for her family. The splendid qualities of these people are reflected in their posterity.

A Salute To This Family From

TURNER BUILDING SUPPLY

That good place to buy

Heber — Roosevelt — Vernal

## MARY MAIR LINDSAY

Mary Mair Lindsay was born July 31, 1852 in Bonnie Scotland. With her mother and two brothers she arrived in Heber, Utah, after a long hard sea voyage and an illness of mountain fever which lasted all the way across the plains.

December 15, 1868, she was married to William Lindsay in the Endowment House. She and William with his mother as chaperone traveled to Salt Lake City by ox team being two days enroute. On the return trip Mary took turns with William driving the oxen on the sleigh and proding one tied to the back, who had become lame.

Their first home was a cottage on the lot where Lowe Ashton now lives. Mary Lindsay was a fine homemaker; cheerful, kind, and helpful. Her care of her family included sewing, laundry, and all the usual household tasks. Early in life she went among the sick and throughout her life she was in constant demand, especially in maternity cases.

Although she lived three miles from town she was seldom absent or tardy at her meetings. She served her church in many capacities. She was the mother of eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity.

Mary Lindsay died when she was but 63 years of age, yet she lived a rich full life; a life of service cheerfully given.

## JEREMIAH & RUTH LUCKER ROBEY

Jeremiah and Ruth Lucker Robey were among the first settlers of Midway, coming to Provo Valley in the summer of 1859. They were married November 7, 1833, in West Virginia, where four of their ten children were born. Having been converted to the Mormon Church they moved to Nauvoo where they remained until after the deaths of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

Mr. Robey was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. He worked on the Nauvoo Temple, hanging the last door on the Temple.

After leaving Nauvoo they remained for some time at Council Bluffs, and then came on to Utah arriving in the summer of 1852. The family settled first at Provo where Mr. Robey and Edwin Bunnell opened and ran a cabinet shop. When the family moved into Provo Valley, the two married daughters and their families accompanied Mr. Robey. Mary Jane was the wife of Sidney Epperson and Susan was the wife of James Ross. There were two un-married children, Jr., and Matilda, who later married Nathan C. Springer, Sr.

Jeremiah and Ruth Robey were typical pioneers, strong, resourceful, thrifty, lovable and kind. Their posterity are their monuments.

If You Are Resourceful And Thrifty See

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## WILLIAM LINDSAY

William Lindsay was born February 11, 1847, in Scotland. With his widowed mother and seven brothers and sisters, he arrived in Heber, Utah, September 21, 1862. He accepted a job on a farm for which he was to receive \$100.00 a year payable in grain. Later when he had acquired an ox team and a heavy wagon he hauled wood and coal from Silver Creek to Salt Lake City to help provide for his mother and her children.

In 1866 he joined the Territorial Militia as Black Hawk was on the warpath. In his later years he received a pension for this service.

In the fall of 1867 he was one of three men chosen to go from Heber to haul granite blocks from Little Cottonwood Canyon to Salt Lake City to build the Temple.

In 1868 he drove an ox team and wagon in a caravan that brought immigrants from the Platt River to Salt Lake City. December 15, 1868, he was married to Mary Mair in the Endowment House.

In 1876 he entered a homestead on Lake Creek where he lived more than 30 years. Lindsay Hill was part of his property. In 1876, he walked to Salt Lake City to file for citizenship papers.

William Lindsay held many responsible positions in his church. He loved poetry and delighted his family and friends with his own compositions. He was an exceptionally fine penman. Among his poems was "Lovely Provo Valley", which place was dearer to him than any other place on earth. When 58 years old he returned to Great Britain as a missionary. He lived until he was 86 years old.



With this issue of the Wave sixty-three profiles of Pioneers of Wasatch have been presented to you by Turner Building Supply. It is only a few of the noble men and women who have contributed to the growth and culture of our county. Many were not included because authentic histories were not available. To them we apologize.

Turner's began the series with an eye on increased business. To claim otherwise would be foolish. Soon, however, that part was minimized in the desire to call public attention to the achievements and purposes of the Wasatch County Pioneers.

It is the intention of Turner's to print the series in booklet form unless printing costs are prohibitive. After this issue of the Wave this column will be discontinued.

From the many expressions of approval received, Turner's know you have enjoyed the articles. To be of public service and create good will in all their business dealings

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Heber — Roosevelt — Vernal

And so we come to the end of this chronicle of the lives and works of some of the pioneers of Wasatch County. It is a story of service and achievement; of mutual endeavor to build a substantial commonwealth. They laid the foundation for the present industries and businesses that make Wasatch County a desirable place to live.

Following, in general, the pattern imposed by these founders of Wasatch and his own father in particular, John M. Turner established a growing lumber industry. It has now expanded into three thriving stores managed by John M.'s three sons. All are a credit to the business John M. started.

Turner Building Supply Co. hopes that a spirit of mutual benefit is expressed in all their dealings with you. It is their wish to have their businesses stand as worthy monuments to those splendid people whom we know as:

**PIONEERS OF WASATCH**

## Roosevelt Store

Ben Turner, the manager of the store in Heber early in the year of 1946, has been in the construction of this unit. The good people of this area had us in business before we were ready with our buildings. We had a small little office to take care of our customers. The store was completed in the fall of 1946. The store serves Duchesne and part of Alameda counties. The manager has built a home in Heber even and is a happy member of the community. We thank you all for your patronage—Including the Indian people of this area. Ben is married and a veteran of World War II.

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